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DR. BARTH, F.R.G.S.—The statement of that Arab (the messenger of the King of Dár-Fúr) contains accurate information about the routes which we pursued, and even gives correctly the names of those very men who gave me protection. With regard to what is stated about Dr. Vogel's final fate, there is no doubt that he was well received on his arrival at Wará. Whether he went direct from Bornú, or went round the north side of Lake Chad, I do not know; but from the contents of the letter received by H.M.'s Consul at Tripoli from the Sheikh of Borgú, I am inclined to suppose that he took the latter road. At all events, it seems that in the beginning he wanted to avoid Wadáí, because a civil war had been raging there. I recommended him to stay at the capital of Bagirmi, the ruler of which country I had befriended, till a messenger might arrive from the King of Wadáí to take him safely to Wára. But after leaving Bagirmi and visiting the provinces of Fittri and Middogo, he seems to have gone to the north of Wadáí to a place called *Wadi Orádha*, and I suppose the King of Wadáí sent messengers to the place to fetch him. At least such is the statement contained in the letter of the Sheikh of Borgú, in which, however, I do not place implicit confidence. There is certainly a holy hill in Wára, the capital of Wadáí, just over the palace. Wára is enclosed by two hilly chains, on the east and west side, leaving only two narrow entrances, one from the north and the other from the south. The king's palace is on the slope of the eastern chain; and on the top is said to be a holy hut, where every new king must reside for seven days. Whether it be true that Vogel wanted to enter this place, in order to investigate its nature, and was executed for the attempt, as alleged, I do not know, but think rather improbable; although I must say, that I myself at present entertain little hope that the courageous traveller be still alive. It would be a great pity if his interesting journals at least should not be saved. His papers, as far as they were taken home by Corporal Macguire, who is stated to have been slain at the well Belkashi farri, six days' journey from Kuka, if they were not destroyed on the spot, may have got into the hands of some of the chiefs connected with the tribe of the Kél-owí, the inhabitants of the country of Aír, although those freebooters who continually infest the road from Bornú to Fezzán do not acknowledge the supremacy of those chiefs. I do not expect that the chief of Bornú will be able to do anything in this respect, because of the Tawárek, who infest those roads, being his greatest enemies. But I think the chiefs of the Kél-owí, through whose territory we passed in going to Negro-land, would be more likely to succeed in endeavouring to get some of them back—provided they were not destroyed on the spot or scattered about. I myself, on my former journey, was robbed, after serious fighting, of all my property; and although this had happened on the border of the territories of the Bashá of Tripoli, and of Mohammed Ali of Egypt, both of whom had secured me their protection, I have seen again neither the smallest scrap of my papers nor any of my things.

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*Fourth Meeting, Monday, January 11th, 1858.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Dr. Wm. Camps and the Rev. A. P. Moor were presented on their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*J. H. Baxendale, Esq.; G. Bonner, Esq.; Lord Viscount Bury, M.P.; Lord Claremont; Chichester Fortescue, Esq. M.P.; G. Grote, Esq.; Edward Hertslet, Esq.; Captain Sir Wm. Hoste, Bart., R.N.; Captain*

*C. Johnson ; Lord Keane ; J. W. Malby, Esq. ; Ch. P. Serocold, Esq. ; Captain J. Stopford, R.N. ; Anthony W. Twyford, Esq. ; Captain S. Webb ; and James Young, Esq., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—Among the more important donations received since the last meeting, were Plans of Lucknow, by the Hon. East India Company and James Wyld, F.R.G.S. ; Fullarton's and Spruner's Atlases ; Admiralty Charts ; Track Surveys of the River Paraguay, by Captain Page, of the United States Navy ; Plan of a portion of the Great Orange River, and Map of Little Namaqualand and Great Bushman Land, by R. Moffat, Esq., F.R.G.S., &c.

The PRESIDENT said : Before we proceed to the ordinary business of the evening, I feel impelled by affection and duty to call attention to the great loss which the scientific world has sustained, and geographers in particular, by the decease of my illustrious friend, Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort. I know it is unusual to allude to deceased individuals except in the anniversary address, and when the occasion for that arrives I will endeavour to do justice to the merits of this great geographer. I now depart from the ordinary custom of the Society that we may pay a *special* mark of respect to the memory of Admiral Beaufort, the perfect type of an English seaman, a disinterested, generous, noble-hearted Englishman, who devoted his whole energies to the advancement of geographical science, who lost no opportunity of serving his friends, and who, above all, was the strenuous and unceasing advocate for the discovery of traces of the expedition of his old and cherished friend, the illustrious navigator Franklin.

I have next the pleasure to state that Lord Clarendon has communicated to us the expression of his wish that the Society should place before his Lordship their suggestions with reference to the proposed expedition of Dr. Livingstone to ascend the Zambesi and explore the interior of Africa. Having brought that subject under the consideration of the Council, I have the satisfaction to state that my associates unanimously approved of all the suggestions which Dr. Livingstone had proposed to Lord Clarendon. Dr. Livingstone explained his whole plan to the Council, and gave in the names of the gentlemen whom he had fixed upon as the most proper to accompany him. It is no breach of confidence to read the names, because they have been approved, not only by the Council of the Society, but also by the Zambesi Committee of the Royal Society. The first is Commander Norman B. Bedingfeld, R.N., F.R.G.S., who is known to geographers especially for his exploration of the Congo. Dr. John Kirk, M.D., F.R.G.S., is proposed to go as the surgeon and economical botanist of the expedition. Possessing a sound knowledge of botany and natural history, he is also a good animal physiologist, and will be able to inquire into the nature of that remarkable insect the *tsetse*, which destroys so many animals in South Africa, and possibly to devise some remedy for this scourge. I may add that Dr. Kirk was recommended by Sir W. Hooker and Dr. Hooker and Dr. Belford. As a mining geologist I have recommended Mr. Richard Thornton, of the Government School of Mines ; and you all know the importance it will be to Dr. Livingstone to be accompanied by a person who can point out to him the real value of ores and minerals during his progress, and test the qualities of coal in that country.

As it is desirable that the artist should be a person thoroughly competent to delineate effectively the features of the country, the expedition is fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. Thomas Baines, F.R.G.S., who has distinguished himself by numerous drawings exhibited in this room, and who is

well known both by his travels in tropical Australia and in South Africa, and who has shown his competency in plan and chart drawing. Dr. Livingstone will farther take out his brother the Rev. Charles Livingstone, as his secretary. Mr. Livingstone is to take charge of the establishment, which it is proposed to fix for a year upon the confluence of the river Kafue with the Zambesi.

I need not tell you that the Council will afford Dr. Livingstone every possible aid as to advice, instruments, and method of observation, so that everything may come before us eventually in a well-digested and graphic form. Lastly, I have to state that the Council has expressed a very decided wish upon one point which they hold to be of the greatest consequence. Considering the well-known unhealthiness of the Zambesi below Tete, the Council urgently recommend to Her Majesty's Government that Dr. Livingstone and his associates be forwarded from the mouth of the river to Tete in a decked steam-vessel of *light* draught with as much celerity as possible, and that the steam-launch now constructing for the exploration of the upper part of the river by our associate Mr. Macgregor Laird be employed to transport the party from that point upwards only.

The Papers read were—

1. *Extracts of Reports from the Niger Expedition.* By Dr. WM. B. BAIKIE, R.N., F.R.G.S., and Mr. D. T. MAY, R.N., F.R.G.S.

Communicated by the Right Hon. the Earl of CLARENDON, K.G., F.R.G.S.,  
H.M. Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Dayspring, off Rábba, 28th Sept. 1857.

MY LORD,—As I expect in a very few days to be able to forward letters and despatches to England, through the Yóruba country and Lagos, I shall draw up for your Lordship's information an account of the proceedings of the Niger Expedition up to the present time.

At the date of my last despatch (No. 7, 7th July) we were just on the point of leaving the Brass River, and crossing to the Nun by a creek which I had the day previously caused to be examined. For a vessel of the size and draught of the Dayspring there is at all times sufficient water; but the schooner we had in tow being larger and deeper, she grounded several times, and we had to wait for two successive flood-tides before we could get her off. We spent altogether 28 hours in this gloomy mangrove creek, which is in some places not more than 30 yards wide. During the night we passed there we were nearly literally devoured by the myriads of mosquitoes which swarmed around while we lay aground. I took advantage of the time to examine in our boats some other portions of the network of muddy creeks which, as far as we went, were laid on our chart, and I got a native, who was induced to come on board, to spend the forenoon in giving to the Rev. Mr. Taylor of the Church Missionary Society a few specimens